1	2	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02#
7.	Jharkhand	0.65
8.	Karnataka	6.45
9.	Madhya Pradesh	24.97
10.	Maharashtra	29.45
11.	Meghalaya	0.00*
12.	Orissa	2.50
13.	Sikkim	0.01@
14.	Uttar Pradesh	3.96
15.	Uttarakhand	0.16
16.	West Bengal	52.92 (individual cards)
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00$
	TOTAL	159.42

Actual figures # 1536, *341, @914, $300

Measures to tackle price-rise

1724. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to provide pulses and other essential commodities through Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to tackle price-rise situation of essential commodities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) At present, Central Government makes available wheat, rice, coarse grains and Kerosene under TPDS to the State/UT Governments for distribution through Fair Price Shops. Pulses imported by the PSUs *viz.* STC, PEC, MMTC and NAFED are supplied to the State Government for distribution through PDS at the subsidy of Rs.10 per kg per ration card holder. In view of the rise in prices of essential commodities witnessed during the recent past, Government has allocated imported edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the edible oils to State/UT Governments. States are free to distribute the edible oil through whatever outlets they decide on.

The Government Measures to check the prices of essential commodities are given in Statement.

Statement

Measures taken by Government to control prices of essential commodities

1. **Fiscal Measures**

(i) Reduced import duties to zero - for sugar, rice, wheat, pulses, edible oils (crude) and maize;

(ii) Reduced import duties on refined and hydrogenated oils and vegetable oils to 7.5%;

(iii) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L. upto 1.8.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.4.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.3.2010.

(iv) Allowed import of raw sugar at zero duty under O.G.L upto 01.08.2009 by sugar mills (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended up to 31.3.2010 (notified on 17.4.2009). Furthermore, import of raw sugar has been opened to private trade up to 31.3.2010 for being processed by domestic factories on job basis (notified on 31.7.2009).

(v) Allowed import of white/refined sugar by STC/MMTC/PEC and NAFED up to 1 million tons by 01.08.2009 under O.G.L. at zero duty (notified on 17.04.2009). This has since been extended upto 30.11.2009. Furthermore, the duty free import of white/refined sugar under OGL has been opened to other Central/State Government agencies and to private trade in addition to existing designated agencies.

(vi) Removed levy obligation in respect of imported raw sugar and white/refined sugar.

2. **Administrative Measures**

(vii) Banned export of non-basmati rice, edible oils and pulses (except kabuli chana).

(viii) Effected no changes in Tariff Rate Values of edible oils;

(ix) Imposed stock limit orders in the case of paddy, rice, pulses, sugar, edible oilseeds upto 30.9.2010;

(x) Using Minimum Export Price (MEP) to regulate exports of onion (averaging at $445 per tonne for November 2009) and basmati rice ($900 PMT);

(xi) Maintaining the Central Issue Price (CIP) for rice (at Rs.5.65 per kg for BPL and Rs.3 per kg for AAY) and wheat (at Rs.4.15 per kg for BPL and Rs.2 kg for AAY) over the last five years;

(xii) Futures trading in Rice, Urad and Tur suspended by the Forward Market Commission in the year 2007-08 and continues during 2009-10. Futures trading in sugar was suspended w.e.f. 27.5.2009 upto 31st December, 2009.

(xiii) Distribution of imported edible oils to States/UTs at a subsidy of Rs.15/kg.

(xiv) To augment availability of pulses, permitted the Public Sector Undertakings (namely, STC, MMTC, and PEC) and NAFED to import and sell pulses under a scheme and the losses, if any, up to 15% are reimbursed by the Government.

(xv) Distribution of imported pulses through PDS at a subsidy of Rs.10 per kg to State Governments.

(xvi) Permitted sugar factories to sell processed raw sugar in the domestic market and fulfil export obligation on ton to ton basis.

(xvii) Increased quota of levy sugar to 20% with effect from 1.10.2009

(xviii) For the month of Nov., 2009, a quantity of 15.00 lakh tons of non levy sugar has been made available which includes 10.50 lakh tons of normal non-levy sugar and 1.45 lakh tons of refined raw sugar imported by sugar mills. The estimated availability out of imported white/refined sugar is about 1.50 lac ton. Besides, the validity period of Oct. 2009 non-levy quota has since been extended for the first fortnight up to 25.10.2009 and for the second fortnight upto 10.11.2009, it is expected about 1.55 lakh ton of sugar would be spill over quota of Oct. 09.

Sugar stock in the country

1725. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only two months sugar stock is available in the country;

(b) if so, the immediate action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) the reasons for such shortage of sugar;

(d) whether Government is planning to import sugar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The opening stocks of sugar on the commencement of current 2009-10 sugar season were hardly enough to meet requirement of the first two months of this season. The Central Government has taken a slew of measures to augment domestic stock of sugar is given in statement (*See* below). The low production of sugar